

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed January 29, 2007, prior to preparing this response. As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability for claims 26-30 and 32-57, as well as the potential allowability of claims 9-12 and 22-24. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following comments. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9, which has subsequently been canceled. New claims 60-62 represent claims 22, 23 and 24 rewritten in independent form. Claim 58 has been canceled. No new matter has been entered as a result of these amendments. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 18-21, 25 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Dieck et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,425,909. Claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claim 9, and claim 58 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 2, 3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dieck et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,425,909. As noted above, claim 1, from which claims 2, 3 and 6 depend, has been amended to include the elements of claim 9, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dieck et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,425,909, in view of Cano et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,893,451. As noted above, claim 1, from which claims 13-17 depend, has been amended to include the elements of claim 9, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

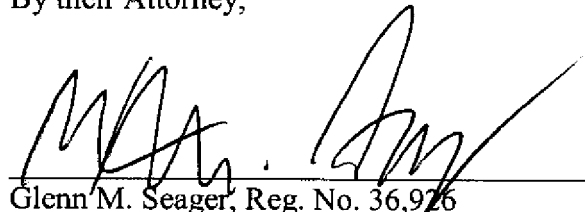
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is submitted that all pending claims are currently in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612.677.9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackson Demond et al.

By their Attorney,

Date:

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